



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site educates the American people regarding the lives and legacies of Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant, his wife, Julia Dent Grant, the enslaved African Americans and other residents of White Haven.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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It's A Presidential Election Year!



At Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, we'll be turning the clock back to 1872. President Ulysses S. Grant is running for re-election, but the Republican Party has split. A faction of the party has labeled themselves the Liberal Republicans. They've held a convention and nominated the famous newspaperman, Horace Greeley, as their candidate to replace Grant in the White House. The Democrats, though also divided, have decided to endorse Greeley as well. The Equal Rights Party, however, has nominated the first woman to be President – the notorious Victoria Woodhull!

For some Americans, it's "Anything to beat Grant," but there are many issues at stake in this election. Women want the right to vote; workingmen want an eight hour day; many people want tariff and civil service reform. The biggest issue, however, is President Grant's Reconstruction policy in the South. Southern Democrats claim they have accepted the results of the Civil War, including the recent amendments to the Constitution, and their opportunistic partners, the Liberal Republicans, want to "clasp hands

across the bloody chasm" and let bygones be bygones. But, what would this really mean for the recently freed African Americans, who are now legal citizens of the United States?

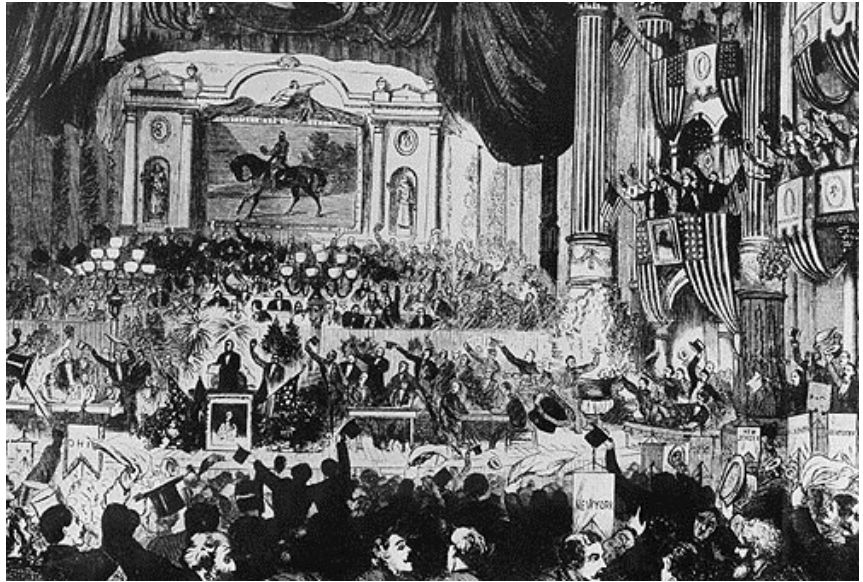
You are invited to come out to the park for a full weekend of exciting speeches by leading celebrities like the great African American orator, Frederick Douglass, Union General and Republican Senator, John Logan, and long-time abolitionist, Gerrit Smith. The Liberal Republican candidate, Horace Greeley, will be speaking, as well as St. Louis suffragette, Virginia Minor and many others. There will be numerous costumed interpreters and activities throughout the weekend, including children's games, historic photography and music.

Visitors are encouraged to wear period clothing as well. So, get that bustle dress, or that frock coat and top hat, out of the closet and join in the fun! There will be a torchlight parade and a polling place so you can cast your own party ballot — although the election judges might not accept ballots from the ladies!

Republican Party Holds Convention In Philadelphia

On June 5, 1872, the Republican Party held its presidential nominating convention at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Ulysses S. Grant was unanimously elected by the delegates as the GOP nominee for a second term in the White House. The convention was full of pageantry and excitement amid Grant's easy victory. A reporter described the scene:

"The spacious Academy was crowded with thousands of people filling every nook. The vast assemblage from stage, parquet and tier upon tier of galleries rose and the deepening cheers shook even the solid walls of the Academy. A perfect wilderness of hats, caps, hands and handkerchiefs waved to and fro in a surging mass as . . . [cheers] shook the dome from the thousands of voices. It was a scene that no language can describe nor artist's brush place upon canvas. The band appeared to catch the prevailing enthusiasm and waved their instruments as though they were flags. Amid cries of 'Music!' 'Music!' the band struck up



'Hail to the Chief.' As the majestic strains of the music came floating down from the balcony a good life-size equestrian painting of Grant came down as if by magic filling the entire space of the back scene, and then the enthusiasm knew no bounds."

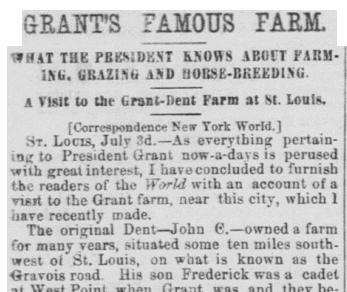
Over three days the GOP established

a nineteen-point platform affirming continued support for the recently-passed constitutional amendments. Party leaders enthusiastically expressed the desire for "complete liberty and exact equality in the enjoyment of all civil, political, and public rights." The Republicans also named Henry Wilson as their Vice Presidential candidate.

Reporter Visits the Grant-Dent Farm at St. Louis

As Americans throughout the country followed the Presidential election of 1872, a reporter from the *New York World* made a summer trip to St. Louis to visit President Grant's White Haven. The pro-Grant paper wished to learn more about the President's farm operation and remarked that "everything pertaining to President Grant now-a-days is perused with great interest."

Grant was not at White Haven when the reporter arrived. He instead met William Elrod, a farmer who had been hired to run the property. During the early 1870s President Grant invested heavily in White Haven and expressed a strong interest in breeding horses for profit on the farm. Elrod commented that Grant visited White Haven "a couple times a year" and that "all he wants is to make a first-rate stock farm of it."



Newspapers around the country reprinted the New York World's report, including the Sacramento Daily Union, which ran the story on August 3, 1872.

The reporter described the house as "a low frame house, painted white, with a porch running its entire length in front. It is an unpretending structure, looking pretty much as it did years ago when the Dents lived in it." Elrod told the reporter, "Mrs. Grant gave orders to have it looking as it used to when she was a girl."

The article also provides an interesting glimpse into the sorts of animals Grant and Elrod raised on the farm. These included twenty-three horses, thirty-five cows, including a "few Holstein cows and an imported Holstein bull worth from \$2,000 to \$3,000," forty hogs, and one-hundred sheep. But the horses were of particular interest to Grant, who owned Thoroughbreds, Morgans, and a Hambletonian stallion that the reporter believed "must be worth \$8,000 to \$10,000."

In addition, the article noted "the vineyard, just north of the house, where [there] are three and a half acres of grapes under fine cultivation, and promising a fine crop."

The *World* reporter came away from White Haven "greatly charmed" by the farm and St. Louis.

Spotlight on the Park: 1872 Grant-Wilson Campaign Lantern

Presidential elections in the 19th century were major social as well as political affairs. Party leaders organized rallies, flag-raising, barbecues, and parades. These events often resembled religious revivals. Tents would be pitched and the community would gather to listen to hours-long stump speeches.

Young people often took to the streets marching in support of their favorite political party and candidate. By parading in uniforms, carrying decorative lanterns, torches, banners and flags, and lighting bonfires, young people could demonstrate that their party was a political force to be reckoned with.



During the election of 1872, members of the Republican Party carried lanterns in support of Ulysses S. Grant and Henry Wilson. The park recently acquired one of these historic lanterns. The lantern features two original glass panes; one hand lettered "Grant & Wilson" with red and blue painted stripes above and below. The second pane has a roman numeral "XI" hand painted on satin-frosted glass. Number designations on parade lanterns were typically used to identify voting wards or districts.

This lantern will be on display in the park's visitor center as part of a temporary exhibit beginning in August.

Independent Silver Band To Perform



The Independent Silver Band, under the direction of William L. Reynolds, with singer Mike Launay, will be performing during the "Grant or Greeley—Which?" living history weekend.

Music has always played an important role in politics. Today's candidates usually appropriate songs that are already recorded and familiar to prospective voters for use at campaign rallies. In the 19th century, campaign songs were often written specifically for particular candidates. Songs glorified a candidate or ridiculed an opponent. These songs were broadly published in newspapers and as sheet music. When sung and played at campaign rallies, they inspired the candidates' supporters. Catchy campaign songs could be more effective than political speeches. Everyone knows how a smart jingle can get stuck in your head!

Before the advent of recorded music, town bands would provide music at campaign events. The original Independent Silver Band, formed in 1884 in Illinois, was often employed for just this purpose. In 2004, the old-time music came to life once more when music educator and musician, William L. Reynolds, assembled a new Independent Silver Band. Reynolds brought together brass players and percussionists to give audiences the chance to hear the music as 19th century Americans would have heard it. In September at U. S. Grant NHS, Reynolds and his bandmates will be performing songs originally written for the Grant and Greeley campaigns in 1872.

Political Cartoons Skewer Candidates

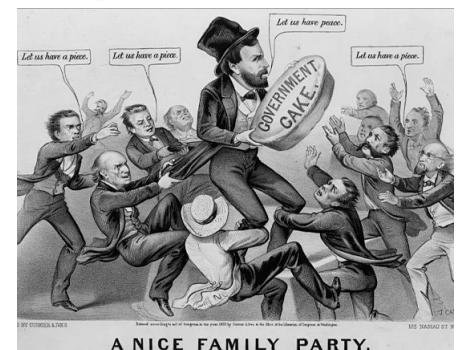
Political cartoons were an effective medium for ridiculing candidates. The most famous cartoonist of the 19th century was Thomas Nast, who was a fierce supporter of Grant.



Above, Nast depicts Greeley reaching out to the South, across the Confederate prison at Andersonville, implying that Greeley would forfeit all that Union soldiers had so recently fought and died for.

However, there was no shortage of anti-Grant cartoons printed in newspapers in 1872.

Below, Grant is shown holding the "government cake" while those around him clamor for a piece of it, playing up the charges of corruption and nepotism leveled at Grant.





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Upcoming Events — *Reservations will be required for these events.

- July 23—U. S. Grant Death Day Commemoration (9 am)
- August 1—American Solar Challenge (12:30-4:30 pm)
- August 25—NPS Centennial Band Concert (7 pm)
- August 26—Lift Every Voice: The Black Experience in the Heartland (7 pm)*
- September 9-11— “Grant or Greeley—Which?” The Election of 1872 Living History Weekend
- October 8—Annual John Y. Simon Day Grant Lecture– Edwina S. Campbell (10 am)*
- October 14—George Washington performance—Dean Malissa (7 pm)*
- October 15—George Washington performance—Dean Malissa (10 am & 1 pm)*

Did you know?

The Liberal Republican candidate for Vice-President of the United States in 1872 was the sitting Governor of Missouri, Benjamin Gratz Brown. Brown was a well-known political figure. In the 1850s he had been editor of the anti-slavery newspaper, the *Missouri Democrat*, and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives from 1852-1858. Along with his cousin, Frank Blair, Brown helped found the

Republican Party in Missouri and supported Lincoln for President in 1860. At the outbreak of the Civil War, the cousins worked to keep the state from seceding. Brown served as a Colonel of Union Volunteers. In 1863 he was elected to the U. S. Senate, where he served until 1867. But, Brown was never happy with Lincoln’s moderation on the slavery issue, particularly the exclusion of Missouri from the Emancipation Proclamation. In the late 1860s, after

leaving the Senate, Brown became disillusioned with Radical Republican rule in Missouri and the disenfranchisement of former Confederate sympathizers. In 1870 he ran for Governor against the regular Republican nominee. With help from Democrats, Brown won. Thus the national Liberal Republican movement began in Missouri. Brown died in 1885, and was buried at Forever Oak Hill Cemetery in Kirkwood, Missouri.